

Docket No.: 050395-0369

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
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Kohei SHIMODA, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: Not yet
assigned	:	
	:	
Application No.: Not yet assigned	:	Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
	:	
Filed: April 14, 2006	:	Examiner: Not yet assigned
	:	
For: GRANULAR METAL POWDER	:	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the application and no certification or fee is required.

A copy of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information. Please note this is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the U.S. and copies of the references cited were transmitted by WIPO and are believed to be in the file of the above identified application and readily available to the Examiner. Therefore it is

believed that Applicants have met all requirements regarding duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56. Acknowledgement and consideration of these documents are respectfully requested.

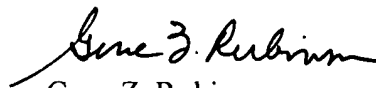
However, to ensure that these references are available to the Examiner, we are providing copies of these references herewith. Since the Search Report was from the JPO search authority, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above identified application and readily available to the Examiner.

References JP 7-232965 A, JP 11-310804 A and JP 2002-256308 A were cited in a corresponding foreign application office action and their relevance is discussed therein. A copy of the office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

The relevance of JP 11-80647 A and JP 2001-35255 A, is discussed in the present specification.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Gene Z. Robinson
Registration No. 33,351

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 GZR:aem
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: April 14, 2006

**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (PTO-1449)				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 050395-0369		SERIAL NO. Not yet assigned <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: monospace;">10/575898</div>	
				APPLICANT Kohei SHIMODA, et al.			
				FILING DATE April 14, 2006		GROUP Not yet assigned	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		US 5,590,387	12-31-1996	Schmidt et al.	Corresponds to JP 7-232965 A		
		US 2002/0108469 A1	08-15-2002	BEHRENS	Corresponds to JP 11-310804 A		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes - Number - Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation Yes No	
		JP 7-232965 A	09-05-1995	INST FUER NEUE MATERIALIEN GEMEINNUETZIG GMBH HC STARCK GMBH & CO KG	Corresponds to US 5,590,387	JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 11-310804 A	11-09-1999	HC STARCK GMBH & CO KG	Corresponds to US 2002/0108469 A1	JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 2002-256308 A	09-11-2002	MITSUBOSHI BELTING LTD		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 11-80647 A	03-26-1999	NIPPON PAINT CO LTD		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 2001-35255 A	02-09-2001	VACUUM METALLURGICAL CO LTD ULVAC JAPAN LTD		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
		Office Action issued in corresponding Japanese Application No. 2003-354459

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.